



Lucien Howe, M.D.

The Howe Laboratory of Ophthalmology

By Harry K. Messenger, M.D., '32.

AN unpretentious black-and-gilt sign on either flank of the main entrance to No. 243 Charles Street in Boston announces the joint home of the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary and of the Howe Laboratory of Ophthalmology. The second oldest institution of its kind in the United States, having been founded in 1824, the former has offered to physicians since 1836 organized classes in diagnosis and treatment of eye diseases. Alumni of the Harvard Medical School, with which it is affiliated, know it as the center for instruction in ophthalmology. Its fame in the history of American ophthalmology is secure, and the value and extent of its services have been incalculable. A mere enumeration of scientific contributions that have resulted from studies in its clinics, its wards, and its pathological laboratory would read almost like a compendium of ophthalmology.

But until 1928, when the Howe Laboratory of Ophthalmology came to the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary, such research as had been done within its walls was almost entirely incidental. The physician, according to the ideals of the Harvard Medical School, must have a tripartite nature embracing practice, teaching, and research. The development of the practitioner and the teacher of ophthalmology had long been well provided for, but it remained for Dr. Lucien Howe to create equal opportunity for the research worker in ophthalmology at the Harvard Medical School.

To tell the alumni how this laboratory came to be, who its founder was and what his ideals, what the Laboratory is and what it is doing and has done, is the purpose of this article.

In 1926 Dr. Lucien Howe generously gave \$250,000 to the Harvard Medical School for the establishment of a fund to

provide opportunity for research in ophthalmology. The endowment was increased by a gift of \$175,000 from the General Education Board and by an appropriation of \$75,000 from the general funds of Harvard University. In the same year the Howe Laboratory of Ophthalmology was founded as a memorial to three members of the Howe family who were relatives of Mrs. Howe as well as of Dr. Howe, and who as officers of the United States Army served their country for a total of more than seventy years. In 1929 over \$240,000 was added to the endowment according to the terms of the founder's will.

The relation between ophthalmology and the profession of arms may not at first thought seem clear, but Dr. Howe was keenly aware of the kinship of type between the warrior and the fighter against disease. His own ophthalmological career was the natural flower of the military traditions of his family. The soldier and the physician alike must excel in directness and sincerity of thought; they must have courage to venture and to face the unknown; without ability to command and to meet a crisis they fail; and they flinch not under responsibility and hardships endured for the sake of duty.

The members of the family who are commemorated by the founding of the Howe Laboratory are General Albion Parris Howe, Dr. Howe's uncle, whose splendid record in the army of the United States "is part of his country's history"; Colonel Marshall Spring Howe, Dr. Howe's father, who played a valiant part in the epic of the plains and in the Civil War; and Captain Albion Howe, Dr. Howe's brother, who was killed in action in 1873 when his battery was ambushed by the Modoc Indians in the lava beds of Oregon. The walls of the Howe Library

are adorned by the portraits not only of these three but also of Dr. and Mrs. Howe and of the illustrious progenitor of them all, Dr. Ebenezer Howe of Standish, Maine, who died "in the full and firm belief" (so says his epitaph) "of the salvation of all mankind". Mrs. Howe has published a delightful sketch (*Frontiersmen*, 1931) of the chief events in the lives of these men whose portraits have been deposited in the Library, and she has also placed on exhibit near the entrance of the Library an interesting series of commissions in the United States Army issued to Colonel Marshall Spring Howe and to Captain Albion Howe and signed by seven different presidents.

Dr. Lucien Howe, although born in Standish, Maine, in 1848, yet first knew life (so it may be said) in the sixteenth century. His earliest memories were of Santa Fe, where the culture of Old Spain still flourished. Here as a child he used both English and Spanish, and adjusted himself to the folkways of two civilizations. Such a boyhood environment must have contributed greatly to the development of a scholar who was to be at home as much in Europe as in America, and who was to have a mastery of five modern languages as well as of the Latin classics. One of those fortunate young men who knew from the start to what ends his destiny was shaping him, he studied medicine at the Harvard Medical School and at Bellevue Hospital. His postgraduate contacts were with Lister at Edinburgh, and with Helmholtz and other masters in the continental clinics. For fifty years he enjoyed preeminence in ophthalmic practice and in teaching at Buffalo, and from his pen came over 130 scientific papers. For many years his studies were centered on the ocular muscles, and culminated in two volumes which established his reputation as an author of distinction and an authority on this difficult and complicated subject. With the advance of years he became more and more concerned with the relation between hereditary eye defects and genetics and eu-

genics, and this enthusiasm of his latter days had much to do with the founding of the Laboratory. His accomplishments won for him membership in the foremost American, British, and continental ophthalmological societies, and his counsels were in requisition far and wide.

Yet Dr. Howe was not at all pontifical in manner, nor was there in him aught of the obscurantist or of the pedant. Perhaps the lucid quality of his mind can best be gauged by a paragraph from the preface to his masterpiece, *The Muscles of the Eye*: "Appreciating fully that passages which appear plain enough to a writer are often confusing to the reader, especially in the treatment of a technical subject like this, the manuscript, with the exception of the portions in small type, was read by a student who had received hardly more than a high-school education. When he marked a passage as not entirely clear, it was rewritten or stricken out. No future critic can be more unrelenting than he." If this principle had been more generally followed, medical writing would be much closer to belles-lettres, and it would be less voluminous!

In every respect he was practical, yet had a fear of "the snare of the practical." Dr. Karl T. Compton of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, speaking recently on "The Electron: its Intellectual and Social Significance", said (for the benefit of those who scoff at the academic endeavors of research in pure science and urge more practical research in the sense of securing immediate results): "There is nothing so practical in its values as accurate knowledge, and the pursuit of such knowledge has been most successful when not fettered with the initial demand that it be directed toward practical ends." The purpose of Dr. Howe in establishing the Laboratory is best understood in the light of this sentence. "Eye diseases and blindness are due principally to our ignorance," wrote Dr. Howe, and to dispel the darkness of ignorance was the great task to which he dedicated his final effort.

In 1928 the Howe Laboratory of Ophthalmology began to occupy the quarters in the Infirmary vacated for it when the new Outpatient Department was opened. From that time to the present the Laboratory has been quartered in the Infirmary. It was the desire of the parties to the original agreement that the Laboratory should have a separate building whenever funds might be available for such a purpose. But in some respects this provisional union of Laboratory and Infirmary has proved ideal. Without such pooling of resources the Howe Library, which has become a national center for the study of ophthalmology, could hardly have come into existence. Dr. Howe was appointed the first Director of the Laboratory, and the memorable achievement of his term of office was the establishment of what is undoubtedly the leading ophthalmological library in the United States. Harvey Cushing, in an address at the opening of the new building of the Cleveland Medical Library in 1926, aptly stated: "The soul of an institution that has any pretense to learning comes to reside in its library; and no less well may one gauge the quality of a medical school, of a hospital, of a laboratory, of the individual doctor himself, than by the condition of its library." Dr. Howe shared this belief, and gave his valuable polyglot collection of books and periodicals, which, together with those owned by the Infirmary, form the present "Howe Laboratory and Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary Library." Many costly books of recent publication have been added through the generosity of Mrs. Lucien Howe, who has also furnished and embellished the Library rooms. The collection is in charge of a full-time librarian, and it comprises 763 bound books, 1690 bound periodicals, and 2354 unbound pamphlets. Its success has been assured by the continued efforts of Mrs. Howe in its behalf.

Dr. Howe's brief career as Director was terminated by his death on December 27, 1928. Subsequently a committee to manage the Laboratory was appointed consist-

ing of Dr. George S. Derby, Williams Professor of Ophthalmology, Dr. Frederick H. Verhoeff, Professor of Ophthalmic Research, and Dr. Hans Zinsser, Charles Wilder Professor of Bacteriology and Immunology. Dr. Verhoeff served as Acting Chief from August 1, 1931, to June 1, 1932, when the committee was dissolved and he took office as Director, in which capacity he still serves. As professor of ophthalmic research at the Harvard Medical School since 1924 and pathologist at the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary he brought with him a brilliant record as investigator not only in histology and pathology but also in many other departments of ophthalmology.

Since "by their fruits ye shall know them" it is fitting to conclude this account with a cursory survey of the more important investigations carried out under the auspices of this Laboratory, and to give an earnest of what may yet come forth. Intensive studies have been made relating to hereditary diseases of the eye, physiological optics, bacteriology and pathology of the eye, and many other aspects of ophthalmic science.

The Director's own major problem has been that of binocular vision and more latterly of its relation to strabismus, and an attempt has been made to ascertain and correlate the hereditary factors of this anomaly. He has completed a study of torsion and cycloduction, and is now investigating particularly the motor aspects of binocular vision. Several new fundamental facts concerning vision have been discovered, and a new theory of binocular vision that elucidates these facts has been evolved. A new test for stereopsis has been perfected and published, as also a test for visual acuity that is more accurate and delicate than the Snellen and other tests for visual acuity commonly employed. New instruments have also been designed for increasing the safety and effectiveness of certain operative procedures in cataract and glaucoma.

The major problem of Dr. Clyde E.

Keeler has been the relation of heredity to diseases and anomalies of the eye. The Howe Laboratory is fortunate in having upon its staff such an investigator as Dr. Keeler, who possesses a comprehensive knowledge of the whole subject of heredity and is keenly interested in its ophthalmological aspects. Certain of his investigations, such as those relating to diabetes and allergy, are obviously of great importance to ophthalmology. He has recently prepared a survey of Human Genetics and the status of research in the field of Medico-Genetics for the report to be published by the Federal Committee on Population Problems. His genetic study of the rodless mouse eye has resulted in important additions to the science. Recently his researches carried him to the Far East.

Dr. Merrill J. King has carried on for nearly five years the study of his major problem, which is ocular tuberculosis. To date about 1500 patients have been tested for tuberculin sensitivity and thoroughly studied. In collaboration with Dr. Verhoeff he has succeeded in cultivating the leptothrix of Parinaud's conjunctivitis and in ascertaining the characteristics of this unusual organism. By slight modification of the same technique he has been successful in growing the diplococcus of Neisser from ocular as well as genital lesions of gonorrhea, and the Laboratory is now equipped to make routine cultures in all suspected cases of gonorrheal disease. Dr. King has also developed a method of treatment for ocular pemphigus, hitherto regarded as hopeless, that gives promise of curing or alleviating it. Furthermore he has studied the *Brucella* group of micro-organisms, and inclusions in different forms of conjunctivitis. For study of the latter a very satisfactory technique has been evolved.

Dr. Trygve Gundersen has made an extensive investigation of obscure corneal conditions, maintaining particular interest in the herpetic group. He has published his study of the effects of iodine applications in herpes of the cornea, and has com-

pleted an investigation on the use of convalescent blood in the treatment of herpes zoster ophthalmicus. He has also studied the effect of pericorneal vascular obliteration for various forms of keratitis, and his researches may shed considerable light on the actual source of the nourishment of the cornea.

Mr. Eugene F. McCarthy, who had been associated with Professor Leonard Thompson Troland in research in the physiology and the psychology of vision, joined the staff of the Howe Laboratory shortly after the death of the latter in 1932. His major subject has been color vision and its anomalies, and he has devised and constructed an elaborate apparatus intended for the study of the fundamental relations between hue, saturation, and brilliance in the normal and abnormal eye.

In 1933 another of Dr. Troland's pupils, Dr. Elek J. Ludvigh was added to the staff, and together with Mr. McCarthy has investigated by a new and accurate method the transmission of light throughout the visual spectrum by the ocular media. Although there may be found in the literature some data on this subject, they are meager and at variance with the result of the present investigation. Dr. Ludvigh has published a paper on aniseikonia in which he suggests that the symptoms of patients treated for this condition are due to undetected anisophoria or to neurotic disturbances. He has also submitted for publication an article in which he brings forth a new concept, that of retinal illumination gradient. Dr. S. Rodman Irvine and Dr. Ludvigh have published a paper on their investigation of the proprioceptive sense of the extra-ocular muscles. The paper suggests that contrary to current opinion, proprioceptive sense is quite unimportant for visual perception.

Dr. David G. Cogan has studied the accommodation of the eye with special reference to the possibility of a double function and double innervation of the ciliary muscle analogous to that of the musculature of the iris. He has brought forward strong evidence that sympathetic nerves play an

important part in accommodation, and particularly in the so-called relaxation of the latter. In collaboration with Dr. Ludvig he has begun an investigation of the intra-ocular pressure and of changes in intra-ocular pressure under various conditions.

The writer of this article has made study of a problem proposed to him by Dr. Howe, namely, the application of modern pedagogical methods to the teaching of refraction, and has a textbook in process of preparation. He has also attempted a systematization of the complicated bibliography of ophthalmology, and is gathering materials for a history of ophthalmological literature. Under the direction of Mrs. Howe he has started for the Library a collection of books that have been landmarks in the history of ophthalmology.

Other workers, not regularly connected with the Laboratory, have carried on researches with its assistance. Within the few years of its existence a total of at least 80 contributions from the Laboratory have appeared in scientific journals.

Two series of public lectures have been given at the Harvard Medical School under the auspices of the Howe Laboratory:

1. Selig Hecht, of the Laboratory of Biophysics, Columbia University, New York, on the Nature of the Visual Processes (March 11 and 13, 1930). These two lectures have since been published, with considerable modification and much supplementary material, as "The Retinal Processes Concerned with Visual Acuity and Color Vision."

2. Sir Stewart Duke-Elder, of London, on Recent Work on the Metabolism of the Eye: 1. Physiological Aspects. 2. Clinical Aspects (December 15 and 17, 1930).

Under the name of the Howe Laboratory of Ophthalmology separate bulletins have been published by:

1. Lucien Howe, A Bibliography of Hereditary Eye Defects.

2. Lucien Howe, On the Percentage and Cost of Hereditary Blindness in the United States.

3. Lucien Howe, On the Control of Hereditary Blindness by Law.

4. Clyde E. Keeler, Hereditary Blindness in the House Mouse, with Special Reference to its Linkage Relationship.

5. Selig Hecht, On the Retinal Processes Concerned with Visual Acuity and Color Vision.

A fund has been set aside to build up and maintain, under the supervision of Dr. Keeler, a complete bibliography of hereditary eye defects, thus continuing the work begun by Dr. Howe in Bulletin No. 1. This has now increased to about 35,000 titles.

The policy of the Howe Laboratory has been liberal. Certain major problems are investigated continuously, and from time to time other problems relating to ophthalmology as they present themselves. Problems that arise in connection with the clinical work of the Infirmary are investigated if sufficiently important and if it seems probable that they can be solved through the assistance of the Laboratory. The facilities of the Laboratory are open to any one who presents an important problem together with methods which in the opinion of the Director are adequate for its solution.

One of the last papers from the pen of Dr. Howe appeared in the Transactions of the American Ophthalmological Society, Sixty-third Annual Meeting, held in Quebec, Canada, 1927, and gives final expression to his views regarding the Laboratory which he founded. It is "A Plea for the Establishment of Schools of Ophthalmology." In it he ventures upon the thought that in the fullness of time the Laboratory might be authorized to develop a school of ophthalmology as a part of its activities. A laboratory and a school working together in a common cause,—such was his desire. The capstone of the structure begun by Dr. Howe is not yet in place, but even now it may be said of him and his enduring place in the history of American ophthalmology: *si monumentum requiris, circumspice* (if thou seekest his monument, look around).

Where Do Harvard Medical Students Come From?

By C. Sidney Burwell, M.D., '19.

OBVIOUSLY the most important thing about a medical school is the people who compose it. There are two groups of these people: the teachers and the students. It is to be remembered that the students of a medical school are important not only in bringing capacities to be developed, but also in bringing special abilities and points of view which may be positive additions to the discussions between teacher and student. This note will set forth certain facts about the origin of the present student body.

Each year from eight hundred to nine hundred men complete application for entrance to the Harvard Medical School. From these eight hundred men a class of one hundred and twenty-five men is selected for admission. Obviously an important influence on the medicine of the next half century will be exerted by the success or failure of this selection, since it will in some measure determine the quality of the medical men of the future. Selection for admission to the Harvard Medical School is made by a committee of the Faculty which bases its decision on all the evidence which can be gathered about each individual without resorting to formulas or quotas. This is so important a function that it is desirable that it should be under continuous criticism.

Contact with the students of the Har-

vard Medical School leads one to conclude that on the whole the selection is well made. There are of course two kinds of errors that can be made in the choice of students. Men may be admitted to the Medical School who are temperamentally unfitted for medicine, or who for one reason or another are not equal to the severe demands of the medical curriculum. In this respect, the selection of men is reasonably satisfactory since only a few men now leave the School for scholastic reasons. The second type of error which can be made in selecting students is the failure to select men who offer possibility of brilliance. When mistakes of this sort are made, they are usually not recognized. Therefore, an attempt is to be made to follow the future careers of a certain number of men who are denied admission, in the hope that the comparison of their careers with the data available when they applied for admission will throw some light on the difficult problem of selection.

The committee does not choose men with regard to their geographical or collegiate source. It is therefore of particular interest to observe the wide range of origin in respect to both colleges and birth-places which is presented by the students in the Harvard Medical School. The following figures are offered to illustrate this point:

	1940	1939	1938	1937	Total
Alabama, University of			1	2	3
Albion College				1	1
Amherst College	1		3	2	6
Antioch College				1	1
Arizona, University of		1	1		2
Bates College			1		1
Berea College	1				1
Boston College	3	2	3	4	12
Boston University		1			1
Bowdoin College	3	1		3	7
Brown University	2	1	7	2	12
Bucknell University			1		1
California Institute of Technology		1		1	2
California, University of	1	3	4	2	10
Carleton College			2	1	3

	1940	1939	1938	1937	Total
Catholic University of America	1				1
Central College		2			2
Chicago, University of			2	1	3
Clark University		1	2		3
Coe College			1		1
Colgate University	1	3	1	1	6
College of the Holy Cross	1	3	1	2	7
College of William and Mary		1			1
College of Wooster		1		1	2
Colorado College		1			1
Colorado, University of	1	1		1	3
Columbia University of			5	1	6
Cornell University	2	1			3
Dartmouth College	1	3	8	5	17
Davidson College				1	1
DePauw University		2			2
Drury University				1	1
Duke University		4		4	8
Emory University		1	1		2
Florida, University of				1	1
Frankfort, University of (Germany)	1				1
Franklin and Marshall College	1	1			2
Freiburg, University of (Germany)				1	1
Furman University				1	1
Georgetown University				1	1
George Washington University		1			1
Georgia, University of	1	2			3
Goshen College				1	1
Hamilton College		4	2	4	10
Hanover College	1				1
Harvard College	42	35	41	31	149
Hastings College			1		1
Haverford College	1		1	2	4
Hawaii, University of				1	1
Hope College	1				1
Idaho, University of	1			2	3
Illinois, University of	2		1	2	5
Iowa, State University of	3				3
Johns Hopkins University		1	1	2	4
Juniata College	1				1
Kansas State College		1		1	2
Kansas, University of			1	1	2
Kentucky, University of				2	2
Knox College		1			1
Lafayette College		1	1		2
Maine, University of		1	1		2
Manhattan College		1			1
Marietta College	1				1
Marquette University		1			1
Maryland, University of				1	1
Massachusetts Inst. of Technology	2	2	1		5
McGill University			1		1
Miami University	1				1
Michigan, University of	4	2	2	1	9
Middlebury College				1	1
Midland College			1		1
Minnesota, University of				1	1
Missouri, University of		1		1	2
Mount Union College	1			1	2
Münster, University of (Germany)				1	1
Nebraska, University of		1	1	1	3

	1940	1939	1938	1937	Total
New Hampshire, University of			1		1
New York University			1		1
North Carolina, University of	1	3	3	4	11
Oberlin College	1	1			2
Ohio State University	1	1	1		3
Ohio University		2	1		3
Ohio Wesleyan University				2	2
Oregon, University of			1		1
Oxford, University of (England)			1	1	2
Pennsylvania State College		1			1
Pennsylvania, University of		1	1		2
Pittsburgh, University of			1		1
Princeton University	11	4	4	11	30
Providence College		1			1
Queen's University			1		1
Rice Institute		1			1
Roanoke College			1		1
Rochester, University of	2			1	3
Rutgers University		1		1	2
Southern California, University of				1	1
Stanford University	1	4	2	3	10
Swarthmore College		3	2		5
Syracuse University			1		1
Texas University	2				2
Trinity College		2		1	3
Trinity University			1		1
Tufts College		1	1		2
Union College			1	2	3
Utah State Agricultural College	1				1
Utah, University of			1	1	2
Vanderbilt University		1			1
Virginia, University of	1				1
Washington and Jefferson College		1			1
Washington and Lee University	1				1
Washington, State College of		1			1
Washington University			3		3
Washington, University of	3	1	2	3	9
Wesleyan University	1		3		4
Western Reserve University				1	1
West Virginia University		1		1	2
West Virginia Wesleyan College	1				1
Wichita, Municipal University of				1	1
Willamette University			1		1
William Jewell College				1	1
Williams College	3	3	1	2	9
Wisconsin, University of		1	1	7	9
Yale University	14	2	6	6	28
	126	127	143	148	544
Counted Twice	1	3	6	8	18
123 Colleges represented	125	124	137	140	526

This is a very impressive table. No fewer than one hundred and twenty-three colleges and universities are represented in the present make-up of the Medical School. There are ten or more men from Boston College, Brown University, University of California, Dartmouth, Hamilton College, Harvard College, University of North

Carolina, Princeton, Stanford, and Yale. Twenty-eight per cent of the total student body comes from Harvard College.

There are also interesting considerations in the geographical origin of the students in the Harvard Medical School. The accompanying table records the distribution of students by their birthplaces:

States	1937	1938	1939	1490	Total
Alabama	1	1			2
Arizona		1			1
Arkansas				1	1
California	6	4	6	3	19
Colorado	4	2		1	7
Connecticut		1	3	1	11
District of Columbia			1	1	2
Georgia		2	4	1	7
Idaho	1			1	2
Illinois	6	5	5	5	21
Indiana	4	1	1	1	7
Iowa	1	1	2	4	8
Kansas	1	3	1		5
Kentucky	4		2		6
Louisiana	1		2		3
Maine	3	1	2	2	8
Maryland	1	2	1		4
Massachusetts	28	31	26	33	118
Michigan	4	3	3	4	14
Minnesota	3	2	2	2	9
Mississippi	1				1
Missouri	1		5	1	7
Montana		1		1	2
Nebraska	2	2			4
New Hampshire	2	4	2		8
New Jersey	8	5	7	2	22
New York	19	23	15	15	72
North Carolina	5	2	3	1	11
North Dakota			1		1
Ohio	4	8	4	6	22
Oklahoma		1			1
Oregon		2	1	1	4
Pennsylvania	5	6	2	4	17
Rhode Island	1	4	2	3	10
South Carolina	1	1		1	3
Tennessee	1		2		3
Texas	1	3	3	3	10
Utah	1	1		1	3
Vermont	2	2	2	1	7
Virginia	1	2	1	2	6
Washington	1	5		3	9
West Virginia	1	2	1	2	6
Wisconsin	3		1	1	5
Hawaii	2		1	1	4
Cuba		1			1
Canada	3	1	2		6
Foreign	7	3	6	10	26
Total	140	137	124	125	526

Thirty-one per cent of the students in the Harvard Medical School were born in New England. The remaining two-thirds come from all parts of the United States and its possessions and from many foreign countries. This represents a change as compared with twenty-five years ago. In the early part of the present century about two-

thirds of the students in the Harvard Medical School came from New England and about one-third from the rest of the world. This would seem to indicate the growing importance of the Harvard Medical School during this period as a national and international institution.

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 December 14, 1936.

To the Editor,

HARVARD MEDICAL ALUMNI BULLETIN:

I wish again to call attention through your columns to the achievements of the Class of 1904 not only in raising, but in distributing the income of a class fund. My object is to stimulate other classes to follow our example.

At the risk of being repetitious, I will state that the suggestion of raising a sum of money to be presented to the School on our twenty-fifth anniversary was made and adopted at our fifteenth anniversary dinner. By paying yearly installments of \$5 or \$10 about 80% of the class raised \$7,000. It was decreed that the principal should not be drawn upon, but that the income might be used for any purpose decided upon by the Administrative Board. After two or three years, not knowing exactly how this income was spent, but realizing that there were doubtless individual students, perhaps even sons of classmates, who needed a little help, it was voted at our thirtieth reunion to pursue another course. After discussion it was decided that it would be pleasant to help a few

students in the payment of their room rent in Vanderbilt Hall. This has been done for the past two or three years to the great advantage both of the students and of Vanderbilt Hall. This year our little income, in sums of from \$30 to \$89.60, has been given to five men, all being selected by the Dean's office as suitable recipients. To quote from a letter from Dean Burwell to me:

"These five men would not have been able to live in the dormitory without some form of assistance, and I feel sure that this assistance will mean a great deal to their development."

It is certainly a source of deep satisfaction to every one of our class to realize that we have been able to help these men to live comfortably and happily through at least one year. We hope that this custom will long continue.

Subsequent to our twenty-fifth anniversary a little more money has come into our Treasurer's hands, some by way of late contributions, some by way of accumulated interest. It is hoped that before long we shall be able to turn over an additional amount to the School, so that the total fund will be \$10,000.

If one class can do this, why not others? All it needs is someone with a little foresight and energy to put the idea across at the tenth or fifteenth anniversary of a class. Further energy on the part of the president or secretary will then be necessary to collect the annual installments, but it can be done and done without hardship (because of the installment feature) to anyone. The writer will be glad to furnish details to any class which may be interested in the idea.

J. DELLINGER BARNEY,
 President, Class of 1904.

CLASS OF 1933

An informal reunion was held by the class at the time of the Tercentenary Celebration dinner at the Harvard Club in September. Brad Cannon came from the furthestmost point, namely, St. Louis. The

majority were still in practice, in Boston or suburbs, or living off of some Boston hospital. Among those present were Ralph Adams, Reeve Betts, Brad Cannon, Bill Comeau, Ken Emerson, Jerry Greene, Ed Hamilton, Ralph Hawkins, Rolf Lium, George Lynch, Forrest Martin, Fred Simmons, Bill Thompson, George Wheatley, George Beaman and Bart Quigley. We were surprised and pleased to learn that Dunphy was at last married, that Seeley has a baby, and that about thirty-one of the class are in practice, including Hyder, who is a government surgeon in Arizona.

An informal bulletin of the class will be published the first of this year. Those who have not replied to the questionnaires please write Fred A. Simmons, M.D., 101 Bay State Road, Boston, Mass., at once, of their whereabouts.

THE SEARCH FOR DR. WOODRUFF

Members of the American Medical Association are asked to be on the alert for information or clues that may help in locating Dr. Harry W. Woodruff, Jr., who disappeared December 29 from the St. Louis City Hospital. It is thought that he may be a victim of amnesia and that he may sooner or later call on a physician for assistance. Dr. Woodruff is 28 years old, is 5 feet 10½ inches tall, and weighs from 155 to 160 pounds. He has a medium dark complexion and there is a slight bald spot on the right side of his head above the hair line. He graduated from Harvard Medical School, Boston, in 1933. Up to January 8 Dr. Woodruff had not communicated with any of his friends, relatives or acquaintances. Any physician who may come into possession of information concerning him is asked to communicate immediately with the St. Louis Police Department, the superintendent of the St. Louis City Hospital, or the young man's father, Dr. Harry W. Woodruff, Sr., 1201 Western Avenue, Joliet, Ill., telephones 2-2583 (home) and 4455 (office). A reward of \$250 is offered for information concerning his whereabouts.

Reprinted from J. A. M. A. Jan. 16, 1937.

M. G. H. HOUSE PUPILS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

As a part of the celebration of the Ninetieth Anniversary of Ether Day, the Massachusetts General Hospital House Pupils Alumni Association held a dinner at the Harvard Club on October 16, 1936. There were 152 members and guests present. Dr. Francis M. Rackemann presided and acted as toastmaster.

The speakers of the evening represented successive periods in the history of the hospital, beginning with Dr. J. B. Wheeler, E.S. 1879, who told of Surgery as practiced before the introduction of aseptic technique. Dr. Wheeler was followed by Dr. J. M. T. Finney, W.S. 1889, Dr. J. A. Capps, E.M. 1896, Dr. J. H. Means, E.M. 1913, and Dr. C. S. Burwell, W.M. 1919. All told of interesting and amusing experiences when they were house officers. In introducing the speakers Dr. Rackemann showed pictures of the hospital and of groups of house officers of the periods represented by the speakers.

The following officers of the Association were elected:

President, Dr. Lincoln Davis, E.S. 1899; vice-presidents, Dr. F. C. Irving, W.S. 1911, Dr. Alan Gregg, W.M. 1917; secretary-treasurer, Dr. Morgan J. Rhees, W.M. 1926.

FREE PUBLIC LECTURES

The Faculty of Medicine of Harvard University offers a course of free public lectures on medical subjects, to be given at the Medical School.

SUNDAY AFTERNOONS AT FOUR O'CLOCK.

Feb. 7—Dr. William T. Salter, "Cancer."

Feb. 14—Dr. Edward D. Churchill, "Surgical Aid in Lung Diseases."

Feb. 21—Dr. Theodore L. Terry, "The Care of the Eyes."

Feb. 28—Dr. Louis K. Diamond, "The Anemic Child."

Mar. 7—Dr. William H. Robey, "Preparing for a Comfortable Old Age."

Mar. 14—Dr. Arthur Hertig, "Abnormal Terminations of Early Pregnancy."

Mar. 21—Dr. Joseph C. Aub, "Glands of Internal Secretion and Human Activity."

BOOK REVIEW

The Life and Convictions of William Sydney Thayer, Physician. By Edith Gittings Reid. New York: Oxford University Press, 1936. X + 243 pages.

The host of friends and admirers of Dr. Thayer will be grateful to Mrs. Reid for preparing this biography of that master of medicine. In a tribute published in the *Lancet*, Sir Farquhar Buzzard voices a truth generally acknowledged that in the death of William Sydney Thayer "the world of medicine has lost one of its most distinguished personalities and American medicine one of its best recognized representatives, who was equally at home on either side of the Atlantic."

Edith Gittings Reid was well fitted for her task. The author of a short life of Osler, so well received by the reading public both lay and professional, she needs no introduction to medical men. In preparing that book she was aided by her intimate friend to whom she dedicated the volume: "To William Sydney Thayer who absorbed the Spirit as he followed the Methods of the Master." True words.

In celebration of Osler's seventieth birthday Thayer sent an original poem, probably the sonnet he later published. In reply Osler wrote: "Very special thanks for that beautiful tribute. You only of the old boys could have done it." There were many things that he only of the old boys could do. He was a many sided man, a unique personality. In him were combined the mind of the scientist and the heart of the poet. A great and gallant gentleman who loved to be clothed in purple and fine linen when such attire fitted the occasion but one who took equal delight in wearing the simple garb of the hunter and fisherman when living far from civilization. There was much of the perfectionist in his makeup. In everything he gave attention to detail and his care to dress appropriately for the rôle he was to play was simply a manifestation of his desire to do all things well.

During Dr. Welch's long fatal illness

he often expressed to Mrs. Reid the wish that a Life of Dr. Thayer should be written and the hope that she would write it. When she protested that it could best be written by a physician Dr. Welch disagreed saying, "Thayer himself portrayed and interpreted in his addresses and essays his own medical creed and the medical life of his day." Fortunately, Thayer collected and published his chief addresses in the attractive volume "Osler and Other Papers" which appeared only a year before his death. It supplements Mrs. Reid's short life admirably. In addition he had published for private circulation a little book of poems "America and Others." These reveal something of the heart of the man not found in his other writings.

"Thayer," said William H. Welch, "was the physician's physician. The world at large may have heard more of others, but to the medical élite—Thayer!" Thus spoke Dr. Welch while urging Mrs. Reid to undertake this work. Raising his finger with that slow arresting gesture that was almost like writing *finis* to a document, he repeated, "to the élite—Thayer!"

Thayer was born in Milton, Massachusetts in 1864. When he was ten years old his father, James Bradley Thayer, distinguished in the law as his eldest son was later in medicine, turned from the practice to teaching and the family moved to Cambridge. Here was the boy's home for the next sixteen years. The scene of a recurrent dream was Jarvis Field. He graduated from Harvard College in 1885 and in 1889 from the Medical School. Mrs. Reid does not mention an important factor in his education, namely his internship in the Massachusetts General Hospital. The fine record he was making in the school early attracted the attention of the staff of the Hospital as the records of the Board of Trustees show that on November 4, 1887 he was appointed an externe on the West Medical Service. At that time he had just begun his third year in the School. His term of service began February 1, 1888 and continued for eighteen

months. After the date of July 31, 1889 his familiar handwriting is no longer to be found on the hospital records.

Of his medical teachers at Harvard, Reginald Heber Fritz made the greatest impression. Fitz at the time was the professor of pathology and also pathologist and visiting physician to the Massachusetts General Hospital. The hospital service was followed by nearly a year of study abroad. The time was chiefly spent in Berlin and Vienna. His main interest was pathology. He met Virchow at whose feet Fitz had sat and with pride Thayer gave him a pamphlet containing Fitz's Middleton Goldsmith lectures on acute pancreatitis, recently published. The greatest practical gain from his stay in Europe was learning the technique of Ehrlich's method of staining blood films and differential counting of leucocytes.

Interesting is the story of how it came about that Thayer, brilliant offspring of the best Brahmin stock of Massachusetts, after he had begun practice in Boston with every prospect of ultimate success left his ancestral home for another term of hospital service in Baltimore, a provincial town medically at that time, in an institution which had first opened its doors only a year and a half before. The author has been misinformed as to the circumstances of this epoch-making event in Thayer's life. Of this we have precise knowledge as Thayer himself tells the story in "Reminiscences of Osler in the Early Baltimore Days." Instead of being called to be resident physician in place of Lafleur as Mrs. Reid states, he applied for an unfilled post on the house staff, that of fourth assistant. As there were no internes, this was the lowest rung on the ladder and Osler was apparently having some difficulty in filling it. One evening after dinner Thayer was sitting alone in the little room which for three weeks had served him as study, consulting room and bedroom. The door bell rang and his friend C. (Arthur^D, Chadbourne) entered. He had just finished his internship and had called to say

"Good-bye" as he was on his way to Europe for advanced study. At the doorway on leaving, as an afterthought, he asked Thayer if he knew a young man who had an internship who might care to take a position in Osler's new clinic. A few weeks later saw Thayer living in the Johns Hopkins Hospital, a member of Osler's staff.

This Life by Mrs. Reid is partly autobiographical as Thayer's private diaries were available to the author, and were utilized freely in the chapters dealing with his experiences when a member of the Red Cross Mission to Russia. This account of what was scarcely more than an episode in his rich and varied life forms nearly one-third of the volume. The events recorded are thrilling and reveal the courage of a man who while in imminent danger could quietly jot down happenings as they occurred. In a Moscow hotel filled with frightened guests he sits in his bedroom writing. The Bolsheviks are in control of the city. "Three shells have hit the hotel, evidently in an attempt to get the Kremlin, which is close by . . . They have begun to bombard us in earnest. Everyone is moving downstairs. I fancy the Bolsheviks mean to destroy the hotel in part and to pillage this evening. *Ce n'est pas rigole.*" There he stops as the shelling becomes too brisk for writing.

"If there was one note that dominated all others in Thayer's character", Mrs. Reid points out, "it was loyalty; once he had given his faith to a cause, to an institution, to an individual, it was indestructible. His interest in Harvard was demonstrated by active work for her throughout his life; he was for many years a member of the Harvard University Board of Overseers, and he was also vice-president of the Harvard Alumni Association, and president, in 1929, of the Harvard chapter of Phi Beta Kappa. When he came to Baltimore the Johns Hopkins gained from him a new allegiance—and William Osler entered his life."

JOSEPH H. PRATT, M.D.

NECROLOGY

'78—JOHN WINTERS BRANNAN died at New York City, August 30, 1936.

'82—HOWARD M. BUCK died at Boston, January 11, 1937.

'83—GEORGE WOOD HUSE died at Seattle, Wash., December 2, 1936.

'83—DENNIS FRANCIS KINNIER died at New York City, October 29, 1927.

'85—ISRAEL MELBOURNE LOVITT died at Yarmouth, N. S., Can., December 7, 1935.

'85—EDWARD REYNOLDS died at Boston, Mass., October 16, 1936.

'87—FREDERIC CODMAN COBB died at Boston, Mass., October 11, 1936.

'87—BYRON CHARLES LEAVITT died at Duxbury, Mass., August 18, 1936.

'89—ARTHUR PATTERSON CHADBOURNE died at Washington, D. C., December 2, 1936.

'92—ARTHUR BROWN CHASE died at Oklahoma City, Okla., July 20, 1936.

'94—FRANCIS DENNIS DONOGHUE died at Boston, Mass., January 4, 1937.

'95—AUGUSTUS WOODBURY CALDER died at Providence, R. I., October 25, 1936.

'96—WILLIAM PATRICK CROSS died at South Boston, Mass., October 21, 1936.

'96—MICHAEL JOSEPH HART died at Boston, Mass., May 23, 1936.

'96—SYLVESTER FORSHAY McKEEN died at Brookline, Mass., November 29, 1936.

'97—HOWARD TOWNSEND SWAIN died at Boston, Mass., December 6, 1936.

'98—CHARLES NEWTON CUTLER died at Plainfield, N. H., September 5, 1936.

'99-01—HOWARD MANNING NORTH died at Waban, Mass., August 20, 1936.

'01—THOMAS HENRY TOYNBEE WIGHT died at Carmel, Cal., May 11, 1936.

'02—WILLIAM STEPHEN BUCKLEY died at Brighton, Mass., December 8, 1936.

'02—GEORGE HATHAWAY GLEASON died at Milton, Mass., October 7, 1936.

'00-02—JAMES PERCIVAL LEAHY died at New Bedford, Mass., October 31, 1936.

'00-03—CHARLES ALLEN DREW died at Honolulu, Hawaii, June 20, 1936.

'03—CHARLES DUNCAN died at Concord, N. H., November 12, 1936.

'04—WILLIAM LESTER BARNES died at Lexington, Mass., September 28, 1936.

'04—CLARENCE EUGENE ORDWAY died at Winchester, Mass., January 5, 1937.

'11—JAMES EDWARD DEMPSEY died at New York City, April 9, 1935.

'14—WADE STANLEY WRIGHT died at Wallingford, Conn., August 25, 1936.

'19—JAMES JOSEPH LYNCH died at Brighton, Mass., January 9, 1937.

'20—HAROLD HIXON BRITTINGHAM died at Madison, Wis., January 6, 1937.

'22—HUGH POTEET MUIR died at Kansas City, Kan., August 14, 1936.

'22—HAROLD EVERETT SMILEY died at Cranston, R. I., March 27, 1936.

ALUMNI NOTES

'78—Barney Sachs has been appointed director of child neurology research, which he has organized under a grant from the Friedsam Foundation "to stimulate original research of the many problems concerned with the care and cure of those afflicted with any of the mental and nervous disorders from birth through adolescence." A new book by Sachs, "Keeping Your Child Normal," has been published.

'83—Clarence A. Cheever has changed his address to 464 Beacon St., Boston, Mass.

'87—Charles P. Briggs, who has practiced dentistry in Boston ever since his graduation from the Dental School in 1889, has retired.

'98—Hugh Cabot, of the Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minn., lectured at St. Thomas's Hospital, London, on August 24 and 25.

'00—Walter B. Cannon has been elected a corresponding member of the National Academy of Medicine of Buenos Aires, Argentina. Cannon has also been elected an honorary fellow in the New York Academy of Medicine in recognition of his "outstanding work in the field of physiology since 1897."

'01—Horace Binney has moved his office to 370 Commonwealth Ave., Boston. He has resigned from the staff of the Boston City Hospital and from the position of professor of surgery at Tufts Medical School. He is still visiting surgeon to the Boston Sanatorium.

'01—David Cheever is spending the winter in Arizona.

'02—Charles H. Keene was appointed editor-in-chief of the School Physicians Bulletin, the monthly publication of the American Association of School Physicians, at the recent annual convention of that body held in New Orleans. Keene is director of health and physical education and professor of hygiene at the University of Buffalo.

'03—John Homans, clinical professor of surgery at the Harvard Medical School and staff surgeon at the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital, Boston, Mass., has been appointed visiting professor of surgery at the Yale University School of Medicine and surgeon-in-chief at the New Haven Hospital, New Haven, Conn. Homans has received leave of absence from the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital so that he may accept

